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HEALTH
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TOTNES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

"Rushbrook",
Totnes.

25 JUL 1956

I have the pleasure to submit my Annual Report for 1955 on the health of the Totnes Rural District.

The live birth rate was 11.84 per 1,000 estimated resident population as compared with 14.0 in 1954, the rate for England and Wales being 15.0.

The infant mortality rate was 18.3 per 1,000 live births, as compared with 5.2 in 1954, the figure for England and Wales being 24.9.

The death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 live births was 18.9.

The crude death rate for the year was 18.3 per 1,000 estimated resident population, the figure for 1954 being 16.1 and that for England and Wales 11.7.

The comparability factor for Births was 1.16 giving a corrected birth rate of 13.7.

The comparability factor for Deaths was .75 giving a corrected death rate of 13.8.

The difference between 18.3 crude death rate and 13.8 corrected death rate is accounted for by the large population at Moorhaven Hospital of people not normally resident in the area.

General Statistics

Area (acres)	80,987
Population - Census 1921	11,918
- Census 1931	12,362
- Census 1951	13,923
Registrar General's estimated resident population mid year	13,850
Number of inhabited houses (1931)	3,348
Rateable Value	£86,733
Sum represented by a penny rate	£358-0-0

The population is chiefly agric ltural, and there is no occupation which has any particular influence on health. There is very little unemployment in the area.

Vital Statistics

	M.	F.	TOTAL
Legitimate	83	76	159
Illegitimate	2	3	5
	85	79	164

Still Births

Legitimate	0	3	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	0	3	3

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 11.84

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (corrected) 13.7

Birth rate per 1,000 (England and Wales) 15.0

Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 18.3

Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (corrected) 13.8

Death rate per 1,000 (England and Wales) 11.7

Deaths from diseases & accidents of pregnancy & childbirth 1

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births 18.3

All infants etc., (England & Wales) 24.9

Legitimate infants oer 1,000 legitimate live births 18.9

Deaths from cancer (all ages) 38

Deaths from measles (all ages) 2

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ... Nil

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

	Total	Admitted to hospital	Died
Scarlet Fever	3	-	-
Diptheria	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Pneumonia	5	-	-
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Erysiplas	-	-	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	3	3	-
Whooping Cough	23	-	-
Measles	124	-	2

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925

	New Cases				Deaths			
Age Period	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
35	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	-
45	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-
55	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 & over	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	10	1	2	2	2	2	-	-

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CAUSES OF DEATH

		M	F
1.	Tuberculosis - respiratory	2	2
2.	Tuberculosis - other	0	0
3.	Syphilitic diseases	1	0
4.	Diptheria	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0
6.	Meningococcal infections	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
8.	Measles	1	1
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	0
10.	Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	3	3
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	1
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	0	3
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	0	1
14.	Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	15	7
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	0	0
16.	Diabetes	0	1
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	17	14
18.	Coronary disease, Angina	16	7
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	4	1
20.	Other Heart disease	21	41
21.	Other Circulatory disease	10	4
22.	Influenza	1	3
23.	Pneumonia	11	6
24.	Bronchitis	5	4
25.	Other disease of respiratory system	1	1
26.	Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	1	1
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	0	0
28.	Nephrosis & Nephritis	2	1
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	0
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	0	0
31.	Congenital Malformations	1	0
32.	Other defined & ill-defined diseases	13	15
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents	0	0
34.	All other accidents	2	2
35.	Suicide	1	0
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0	0
	All causes	135	119

WATER SUPPLY

The South Devon Water Board has continued to do good work in the district during the year and schemes are being prepared to supply several more villages and hamlets with a pure moorland supply.

ASHPRINGTON

The supply in the village from a small local well is insufficient in quantity and sometimes of doubtful purity. A drip feed chlorinator is now working continuously. At Tuckenhay, the unsatisfactory supply from the paper mills to about thirty houses is being chlorinated until provision of a supply by the Water Board is effected. Main laying by the Board is in hand.

BERRY POMEROY

This village is served by a private supply owned by the Duke of Somerset. More works to prevent pollution have been done.

BUCKFASTLEIGH WEST

The villages of Coombe, Scoriton and Michelcombe are still supplied from Lakemoor and Michelcombe. The supply is adequate as regards both qulaity and quantity.

CHURSTON FERRERS

The Paignton Urban District Council is the water authority for this parish.

CORNWORTHY

It will be a great advantage to the village when the moorland supply is available. Pumping is necessary at present to boost the original supply. Main laying by the South Devon Water Board has been commenced.

DARTINGTON

The village is supplied in bulk from the Dartington Hall Estate supply and continues to be satisfactory; although there seems to be need for more efficient flushing of mains.

DEAN PRIOR

Bulk supply from Lord Churston, satisfactory.

DIPTFORD

The moorland supply is available.

DITTISHAM

Fairly satisfactory - will eventually be connected to a moorland supply together with Cornworthy, Tuckenhay and Ashprington.

HALWELL

This village is connected to the trunk main.

HARBERTON

The ram supply continued, pollution occurs during periods of heavy rain but the supply is chlorinated in the ram house. There have been failures in the supply on a number of occasions.

HARBERTONFORD

Same supply as Harberton.

HOLNE

Supplied from a leat on the moor. Some houses are supplied direct off the Paignton trunk main which passes through part of the parish.

KINGSWEAR

Supplied from numerous small springs piped to reservoirs on different levels. Very troublesome supply to maintain and chlorination is continuous.

LITTLEHEMPSTON

Small private supply, some houses have wells. No main water available.

MARLDON

Supplied in bulk from Paignton Urban District Council.

MORLEIGH

Connected to the South Devon Water Board's trunk main.

NORTH HUISH

A small local supply feeds the village.
Avonwick has a moorland supply.

RATTERY

Moorland supply from Marley Head.

SOUTH BRENT

A moorland supply. There are occasional complaints about discolouration.

STAVERTON

Memory Cross is supplied with Paignton main water from Broadhempston. The village south of Coombe Farm is supplied from two local springs owned by the Church Commissioners, supplemented by the Paignton supply. The spring supplies have been unsatisfactory in quality and the boiling of water has been advised.

STOKE GABRIEL

Supplied from Paignton mains. A larger reservoir and ring main have been provided by the South Devon Water Board.

UGBOROUGH

Ugborough, Bittaford, Filham and Wrangaton have a moorland supply.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

CHURSTON FERRERS

Plans have been prepared for a sewer extension in Greenway Road. Although primarily for taking the drainage from a new grammar school, the drainage of a new private building estate and some existing houses will be possible.

MARLDON

A short sewer to connect five old cottages to the new system of sewers was carried out.

ASHPRINGTON

Permission was received towards the end of 1955 and authority to accept a tender has been secured more recently.

HALWILL

Owing to the concentration of effort in the District on house building, there has been little further progress on the preparation of the scheme.

DIPTFORD

Owing to the concentration of effort in the District on house building, there has been little further progress on the preparation of the scheme.

STAVERTON

A start has been made on the preparation of proposals for a small improved disposal plant to deal with drainage from properties near the school and church.

MORLEIGH

Several private crude outfalls discharge in a water meadow causing a public nuisance during dry weather. A scheme to drain 6 new Council Houses was put in recently and eventually it is hoped that this sewage system will be enlarged to drain most of the village.

KINGSWEAR.

A small sewer extension was carried out to enable abatement of a cesspool nuisance.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 SECTION 47

Facilities are available at Broomborough Hospital, Totnes for the reception of persons in need of care and attention. One person who was moved to hospital on a magistrate's order in 1954 remained there. One who was moved in 1954 and then discharged was moved to hospital again on a court order.

Meat

Particulars of animals inspected and carcases or parts found unfit are set out in the table below:-

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	193	13	34	754	346	
Number inspected	193	13	34	754	346	
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci Whole carcases condemned				2		
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	25	2		21		
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	12.95%	15.39%		3.05%		
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcases condemned					1	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	2			14	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.15%	15.39%			4.34%	
Cysticerosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned						
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration						
Generalised and totally condemned						

Milk

All the milk sold in the area is now Sterilized, Pasteurised or Tuberculin Tested.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

Stanley Gilbert

Medical Officer of Health.